

Waterville Community Garden Growing Guidelines

Waterville Community Gardens is committed to encouraging people to garden in socially and environmentally responsible ways. All plots in this garden are organic. The following guidelines are designed to help answer any questions about managing your garden plot:

The tools in the shed on North St. are available for use on-site by gardeners on an honor system basis. Please return tools to the shed in good condition for the next gardener to use. We welcome your donation of extra garden tools that are in good condition.

Water: Water will be delivered weekly by Waterville Parks and Recreation Department to North St. and Moor. **If possible**, Please water in the evening or morning to minimize evaporation. Please try to conserve your use of water, for example by mulching your crops and planting vegetables that thrive in zone 4 conditions.

Weed Control: Herbicides are prohibited, as they are hazardous to human health, may kill or damage desirable crops, drift into neighboring gardens, or persist in the soil. Hoeing, mulching, and hand weeding are recommended.

Insect Control: Preferred control methods include hand picking of insect pests and companion planting, **At this time, we ask that you refrain from using natural botanicals, such as rotenone and pyrethrum and any homemade preparations such as garlic and red pepper base sprays.**

Disease Control: Most problems can be controlled if you maintain healthy soil, choose disease-resistant plant varieties, and remove diseased plants from the garden.

Fertilizers and Soil Amendments: Commercial inorganic fertilizers (Miracle Grow, 5-1-5, etc) are not permitted. Products from plant or animal origin, for example, compost, leaf mold, livestock manure, blood and bone meal, fish emulsion, kelp meal, liquid seaweed and commercial organic fertilizers are acceptable. Natural mineral fertilizers, ie. greensand, granite dust, and ground limestone are also acceptable. Gardeners are strongly urged to add as much organic material as possible to their plots because loam by its nature is devoid of fertility.

Non-Acceptable Plants: Please do not plant trees, bushes, perennials, and invasive species such as mint in your plot.

Cost:

We ask for a *minimum* donation of \$20.00 for each garden plot.

Please report vandalism to: Matt Skehan, Waterville Parks and Recreation:
mskehan@waterville-me.gov